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THE CLAIMS:

1. A method for integrating systems engineering and project management tools, the method including the steps of:
  - 5 obtaining component parts and life cycle activities of a system;
  - creating a system information model by selectively and individually linking parts and activities with tasks, resources, time and costs;
  - updating the system information model by selectively and individually adding or modifying parts, activities, tasks, resources, time, costs and links therebetween;
  - 10 storing versions of the system information model;
  - processing versions of the system information model into end-user information to enable life cycle analysis of the system.
2. A method according to claim 1, wherein the method is implemented as an add-in or  
15 plug-in to a project management application.
3. A method according to claim 2, wherein the project management application is at least one of Microsoft Project™, Artemis® and Primavera®.
- 20 4. A method according to claim 2 or 3, wherein the system information model accesses tasks, resources, time and costs from the project management application.
5. A method according to any preceding claim, wherein the system information model includes at least one of parts, activities, tasks, resources, time, costs and phases relating to  
25 at least one of requirements, definition, design, development, manufacturing, testing, deployment, operating, support, environmental impact, sustainability and decommissioning of the system.
6. A method according to any preceding claim, wherein the system information model  
30 and the end-user information are created and manipulated using libraries and templates.

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7. A method according to claim 6, wherein the libraries and the templates are stored in files or a relational database.
8. A method according to claim 6 or 7, wherein the libraries include information relating to component parts, tasks, resources and life cycle activities of systems.
9. A method according to any one of claims 6 to 8, wherein the templates are expressed in eXtensible Markup Language (XML).
10. A method according to any preceding claim, wherein the step of processing versions of the system information model includes comparing different versions to provide traceability between iterations of the system over the life cycle.
11. A method according to any preceding claim, wherein the end-user information to enable analysis of the system over the life cycle includes information relating to at least one of systems engineering, project management, risk management, life cycle cost, life cycle assessment, environmental impact and system activities of the system project.
12. Computer software for integrating systems engineering and project management tools, the computer software residing on a computer-readable medium and including instructions for causing a computer to perform the following operations:
- obtain component parts and life cycle activities of a system;
  - create a system information model by selectively and individually linking parts and activities with tasks, resources, time and costs;
  - update the system information model by selectively and individually adding or modifying parts, activities, tasks, resources, time, costs and links therebetween;
  - store versions of the system information model;
  - process versions of the system information model into end-user information to enable life cycle analysis of the system.

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13. Computer software according to claim 12, wherein the computer software is an add-in or plug-in to a project management application.
14. Computer software according to claim 13, wherein the project management  
5 application is at least one of Microsoft Project™, Artemis® and Primavera®.
15. Computer software according to claim 13 or 14, wherein the system information model accesses tasks, resources, time and costs from the project management application.
- 10 16. Computer software according to any one of claims 12 to 15, wherein the system information model includes at least one of parts, activities, tasks, resources, time, costs and phases relating to at least one of requirements, definition, design, development, manufacturing, testing, deployment, operating, support, environmental impact, sustainability and decommissioning of the system.
- 15 17. Computer software according to any one of claims 12 to 16, wherein the system information model and the end-user information are created and manipulated using libraries and templates.
- 20 18. Computer software according to claim 17, wherein the libraries and the templates are stored in files or a relational database.
19. Computer software according to claim 17 or 18, wherein the libraries include information relating to component parts, tasks, resources and life cycle activities of  
25 systems.
20. Computer software according to any one of claims 17 to 19, wherein the templates are expressed in eXtensible Markup Language (XML).

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21. Computer software according to any one of claims 12 to 20, wherein the step of processing versions of the system information model includes comparing different versions to provide traceability between iterations of the system over the life cycle.
- 5 22. Computer software according to any one of claims 12 to 21, wherein the end-user information to enable analysis of the system over the life cycle includes information relating to at least one of systems engineering, project management, risk management, life cycle cost, life cycle assessment, environmental impact and system activities of the system project.
- 10 23. A method for integrating systems engineering and project management tools, substantially as hereinbefore described with reference to the accompanying drawings.
24. Computer software for integrating systems engineering and project management  
15 tools, substantially as hereinbefore described with reference to the accompanying drawings.